



# Idaho's Citizen Commission for Reapportionment

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Moscow Public Hearing  
June 23, 2011  
University of Idaho, Student Union Bldg  
2 pm

**Chairman Andersen** called the meeting to order and explained the goal of the second citizen's commission for reapportionment. He indicated that the public can give testimony and prepare and submit plans. He asked for testimony today regarding local communities of interest, population trends and geography, and encouraged those testifying to supply written copies of their testimony. He also indicated that the commission had some procedural matters to take care of and then entertained a motion regarding the calendar for July and August. **Commissioner Kane** then proposed a schedule for July and August. After discussion the following calendar for meetings of the commission was unanimously accepted. The dates set were July 13,14 ,15,18,19,25,26,27 , August 1,2,3,15,16,17,25,26,27,29,30,31, and September 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The schedule also included a Public Hearing for the evening of July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in Meridian, Idaho, and a target date of July 27<sup>th</sup> to have a final plan.

**Commissioner Moses** then made a motion to allow Idaho Public TV to archive and display the tapes of the public hearings on the website. This motion was also unanimously passed.

The commissioners then introduced themselves as follows: **Commissioner Lou Esposito** from Boise, **Commissioner Lorna Finman** from Kootenai County, **Commissioner Evan Frasure** from Bannock County, **Commissioner Allen Andersen** from Bannock County, **Commissioner Julie Kane** from Lapwai, and **Commissioner George Moses** from Boise. Also present from the staff were **Cyd Gaudet** and **Kristin Ford**.

**Commissioner Kane** then explained the legal obligations that the commissioners have in drawing their plan. She explained that the purpose of this process is to redraw the district lines, following the census, every ten years, to make sure that the one person=one vote concept remains intact in Idaho. She explained that by Idaho Statute the commission can draw between 30 and 35 districts, that the districts shall preserve traditional neighborhoods and communities of interest, that they are to avoid drawing oddly shaped districts, and avoid dividing counties when possible. She explained that if counties are split they must be adjacent and a state or federal road must join them. She also indicated that the commission cannot consider incumbents or their respective parties. She advised the audience that the decision will be based on population, and as Idaho has grown in urban areas, the rural districts will likely grow geographically.

**Chairman Andersen** pointed out that the commission has 90 days in which to do this, and he encouraged the public to go to the website, use the software, and design and submit legislative districts. He pointed out that they will also accept oral and written testimony. He advised the audience that he appreciates their attendance today, and is looking forward to their testimony.

**Paula Bauer**, who is Precinct Chairman for Viola, Precinct 30 in District 6, was first to testify. She indicated that there is a widespread sense of disenfranchisement in the outlying areas of District 6. She states that it seems that whatever Moscow wants, Moscow gets, so it is futile to fight against Moscow. She stated that people tend to think that what is going on in the city does not impact the county residents. She suggested that the northern precincts from Viola north and from Troy east into Kendrick and Julietta be grouped with Benewah and Shoshone Counties. She then suggested that Moscow and Lewiston be grouped together in a legislative district, as this would combine

communities of interest better, with their university and urban mindset. Rural Latah County should be with Benewah and Shoshone because they have rural interests in common, such as agriculture, ranching and lumber. She said that this would make people feel they have a voice in Boise. She indicated that she does not want the legislative districts reduced to 30, as this would disenfranchise the rural areas, and would make the districts too large for legislators or those running for office to cover. There really would be no cost savings, especially in rural districts where legislators would have to travel much further. **Commissioner Andersen** asked about Ms. Bauer's use of the term "schizophrenic" to describe their local legislators, and **Ms. Bauer** explained that she feels it is really very difficult for a legislator to represent both urban-college town interests and also rural farming interests. **Commissioner Moses** then indicated that he was disappointed to hear that certain parts of a county cannot get along with other parts of a county. He expressed that you cannot accommodate all of these desires and that hopefully at the end of this people who live together will find a way to get along. **Ms. Bauer** indicated that it isn't that they can't get along; however she just recognizes that the values, needs and the economy are different in different areas of the county and everyone wants to feel like they have a voice in the government. **Commissioner Finman** then indicated that this commission had added more hearings than the prior commission to get rural input, and encouraged everyone to submit their ideas on a map, even if only partial. **Ms. Bauer** also discussed the concept of combining university cultures in Moscow and Lewiston, after Commissioner Frasure requested she expand on her thoughts.

**Pam Kaynor**, a Benewah County Commissioner, then spoke on behalf of the commission. She stated that Benewah and Shoshone County are pretty well democratic, and feels that the rural communities are linked in many ways, and she would like to see some continuity between these communities. She stated that the way the line is drawn now as a backwards C isn't working as they don't have commonality with the Sandpoint area. She also indicated that she would like their district more consolidated and does not support reducing the number of districts. She also said that Benewah County wants to be in a district with southern Kootenai County at the Harrison Mile, and that they are also linked with Shoshone County and northern Latah County as they have logging, mining and agriculture in common, no matter which party you belong to. She also stated that urban areas do not understand rural issues because they don't have to deal with them.

Next called to testify was **Senator Dan Schmidt** from Moscow, in District 6. He advised the commission that he disagrees that urban and rural people cannot be well represented in the same district. He stated that he wants representation to respect county lines, and he suggested that the commission should consider hospital admission zip code data in making their decisions. In Moscow, they get more patients from Benewah County than from Clearwater County. **Commissioner Frasure** then asked **Senator Schmidt** if Latah County has any connection with Clearwater County. **Senator Schmidt** explained that they have a connection in the community of Elk River.

**Eric McGilp** then testified that the culture in rural areas is different than in towns. He then gave the example of the wolf problem and that his legislator, who lived in the city, didn't know there was a wolf problem. He supports Paula Bauer's ideas.

Next to testify was **David Nelson**, a resident of Latah County, and Democratic Chair for Latah County. He stated that he would like to support the commission's directive to keep counties intact, and wants Latah County kept intact. He explained that most of the small towns are economically tied to Moscow and each other, and that where some of the southern towns may be tied to Lewiston, they are more tied to Moscow. He explained that in making up the district he would prefer Benewah County as there is a good road that connects them and they have economic ties. He stated that Clearwater is the other option but it is less accessible and the economic ties are not as strong. He also supports keeping all counties north of the time zone in 8 districts as they have stronger economic ties. **Commissioner Frasure** asked if Idaho County is a better fit with the north than south. **Mr. Nelson** agreed, saying that Clearwater, Idaho and Shoshone Counties have mining and rural interests in common, and advised that Grangeville and Idaho Counties probably relate more to Lewiston and Spokane than to Boise.

**Tom Stroschein**, County Commissioner from Latah County was next to testify. His request of the commission was not to split Latah County as the county government works very well. He stated that he also believes that Moscow is a rural community and the other rural communities need Moscow for hospitals, ambulance, etc. He also stated that either of the counties east or north of them would be a good fit for a district.

**Wilmalee Larson**, a precinct leader from Potlatch, testified next. Her mother-in-law feels that their rural interests are not being represented. She indicated that she prefer that they be combined with Benewah County, and would like the separation of Moscow from the rural areas.

Next to address the commission was **Carol Bauer** from Troy, representing herself. She stated that she has a second home in Sandpoint and agrees that both places are rural; however there is no university influence in Sandpoint. The Californians she has met that have moved into the area are looking for less government and are not liberal, as she expected. She also explained that the people in Troy do not feel like they have a voice due to the strong influence of the university. She supports Paula Bauer's proposal of linking Moscow and Lewiston together and grouping the rural towns in a separate legislative district. She also advised the commission that she was opposed to reducing the number of legislative districts because then her people would be losing even more voice.

**Gresham Bouma**, a rural resident, advised the commission that he feels that Latah Counties rural areas are separate from Moscow and that people think about things differently. He also explained that the County residents want to be left alone so the fact that so many of them showed up today means this is very important to them. We don't care if big trucks go down the roads and we don't like the wolf from Canada, and that outlines some of the differences between us and the urban viewpoint.

Next called to testify was **Ethan Wright** who explained that he really didn't really mean to sign up to talk but would say that the most important thing for the commission should be keeping the cultures together. He further stated that economic ties or public services should not be considered in the commission's decisions; after all, you can shop online. The only thing we should be looking at is what kind of culture we have. In response to a question from **Commissioner Moses** about the choice of keeping Latah County whole or keeping the rural culture together, **Mr. Wright** said he would advise splitting the county.

**Josh Peters** testified next and echoed what others have said about keeping rural communities together and keeping urban communities together. He has drawn a map with Maptitude and it is available on the web site. Regarding the Congressional Districts he indicated that he did a map where he put all the counties from Canyon, Boise, Custer, Craigmont, and Bonneville combined in one northern district 1 and then Ada and Owyhee out to Bonneville County in another district 2. He did this because he feels that all of the growth is coming out of Canyon and Ada Counties so he wanted to put them in separate districts so they would keep growing equally.

**Representative John Rusche, Minority Leader in the House**, next advised the commission that he will testify in Lewiston later, however he wanted to talk about Moscow and Lewiston now. He said that he agrees that there is an urban and rural split, but feels that the rural areas are represented in the Idaho Legislature. He then explained that Lewiston is a port district, and that Moscow is a college town and believes these are two very different cultural and economic areas. Please don't confuse not winning an election with not having a voice; the rural interests still have a voice. Commissioner Frasure pointed out that he is the only appointing authority to come to a hearing, and asked about Lewis-Clark College. Rep. Rusche briefly explained the differences between Lewis Clark College and the University of Idaho and that each school has different roles and each is good at what they do. Commissioner Frasure asked about what sort of cooperative agreements the University of Idaho might have with Lewis-Clark state college, but Rep. Rusche was not able to speak to that issue.

**Chairman Andersen** then advised that everyone signed in had testified and asked if anyone from the audience wished to speak.

**Jan Wall**, who is a Washington resident but works in Idaho, explained that she covers library clientele from Riggins to Bonner's Ferry. She stated that on I95 she has counted cars and that she counted 160 from the Viola turn off into Moscow at 5 pm. She stated that she has also observed many cars coming from Moscow to Troy and many cars coming from Moscow to Lewiston. She believes that this counters the perception that the rural residents largely work in the extractive industries. Diversity in an economy benefits us all. She stated that she believes that this shows that this area is an ecosystem that largely works and that Latah County needs to stay together. Commissioner Frasure stated that she is the only nonresident to testify and asked why she counts cars, and Ms. Wall indicated it's just something that she does all the time and sometimes she counts mileposts.

Next to testify was **Gary Bryan**, the husband of the Mayor of Moscow, who indicated that he was speaking for himself, not the mayor. He said that he thinks that Latah County should be kept whole, and he doesn't think that Moscow or any part of Latah County should be attached to Lewiston. Moscow is the county seat and it holds the rest of Latah County together. The University of Idaho is the largest employer in Latah County, and the medical industry accounts for the second largest employer, not agriculture. A lot of rural residents are not farmers, but rather work in Moscow. None of the Moscow city council members are affiliated with the University of Idaho, and in fact being associated with the university would be a detriment to running for office. Moscow accepts the University of Idaho and they work well together, but contrast this to Pullman which is actually dominated by Washington State University. Lewiston is happy to have the mega loads, but Moscow is against them. The ideas put forth by Lewiston and Clarkston are completely different from ideas put forth by Moscow and Pullman. **Commissioner Frasure** asked about the population of Moscow and commented on the conflicting goals to keep communities of interest like rural residents together but also to not divide counties.

**Linda Pall**, a former City Council member from Moscow, and a lawyer and coordinator of Business Law at Washington State University, was next to testify. She encouraged the commission to keep Latah County together as much as possible. She also stated that Clearwater County should not be joined with Latah County as they don't have a lot in common and it takes a long time to get between them, and you have to go through Nez Perce County to reach Orofino in Clearwater County. If you did join Latah County and Clearwater County, you might be surprised at the number of Democrats in Clearwater County. She also stated that Latah is much more connected to St. Maries and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe than Clearwater County and suggested that the commission combine Latah County with Benewah County. She really appreciates the commissioners coming up to Moscow and seeing them in person.

**Roger Fallon** from Genesee testified next, and suggested that although it sounds like the commission will need to split some counties he urged them to split the least amount possible. He also indicated that he does not agree with the one person=one vote concept, and stated that he believes that the state is becoming more rural. He then urged the commission to maintain representation in the rural areas.

Commissioner Frasure asked his opinion about the number of legislative districts, and Mr. Fallon said he would recommend that the commission maintain 35 districts if possible.

**Linda Pall** then indicated that she had forgotten to address the area of congressional districts and wanted to state that she doesn't want to be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. Having run for office in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, she knows it well. She suggested an option is to cut some more from Boise and push it east, even though people in Boise may not like it. She further stated that having 10 northern counties combined with Idaho Falls and Pocatello does not make any sense. She also pointed out that her research has indicated that Idaho is becoming more urban, not more rural. Commissioner Frasure commented about needing to move 58,000 people and that all of Boise may be in one congressional district this time.

**Pam Kaynor** from Benewah County then stated that the Benewah County Commissioners do not want to be linked with all of Latah County, just with northern Latah County, and prefer to be linked with Shoshone county (because we're inseparable from them) and northern Kootenai County (to keep the tribe together).

**Chairman Andersen** then advised the audience that the intent of the commission is to draft the best possible map that they can, he explained that they will not make everyone happy, however as art is in the eye of the beholder they hope to make some art that is pleasing to as many people as they can. He also explained that they hope to submit a final draft to the Secretary of State by a unanimous vote. He stated that the commission will take into account all of the information and plans submitted, and that they appreciate the time which people took today for their input.

**Commissioner Moses** then challenged the audience to go on to the website, use the criteria they have, and to start to draw a map of at least seven districts to get a flavor of what the commission will have to do to produce a map that is useful and legally sufficient.

**Commissioner Esposito** then explained that the public's input can have an impact on the process and that the commission is looking for their help.

**Chairman Andersen** then adjourned the meeting at 3:47 pm.